

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO, US

SUBJECT: BELOVSKI CALL ON LUERS - BILATERAL ISSUES

REF:STATE 211102

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI MADE NO FORMAL COMPLAINT ABOUT THE BOMB INCIDENT IN NEW YORK THE PREVIOUS DAY BUT DID STRESS THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND FOR EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF TERRORISTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDING ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISTS. ON OTHER ISSUES, BELOVSKI INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO BE INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR SEVERAL FORTHCOMING VISITS, THAT THE YUGO-SLAVS WERE HAVING PROBLEMS RESPONDING ON THE ECONOMIC WORKING GROUPS, THAT HE HOPED SECRETARY VRHOVEC COULD SEE SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON INSTEAD OF NEW YORK. ON DUAL NATIONALS HE SAID THAT STRICT NEW INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ALL VISA-ISSUING OFFICES TO PREVENT SUCH PROBLEMS. LUERS INFORMED BELOVSKI ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT MILITARY WORKING GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. TERRORISM. LUERS SAID WE WERE "SHOCKED AND DISMAYED" BY THE INCIDENT IN NEW YORK THE PREVIOUS DAY, IN WHICH CROATIAN SEPARATISTS HAD PLACED TWO BOMBS IN PUBLIC

PLACES. WE WERE DOING WHAT WE COULD TO SEE THAT ALL NECESSARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE BEING TAKEN. BELOVSKI SAID THAT HE WAS NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE EVENT, BUT WAS OF COURSE CONCERNED AND APPRECIATED LUERS STATEMENT. ON THE ISSUE OF THE YUGOSLAV TERRORISTS IN WEST GERMANY AND THE FOUR FRG TERRORISTS BEING HELD IN YUGOSLAVIA, BELOVSKI REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE NOT "NEGOTIATING" AN EXCHANGE. HOWEVER, HE SAID, YUGOSLAVIA CANNOT ACCEPT A DOUBLE STANDARD IN DEALING WITH TERRORISM IN WHICH THOSE IN THE FRG ARE CALLED "POLITICAL" WHILE THOSE ELSEWHERE ARE TERMED "TERRORISTS." THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF LEFT OR RIGHT BUT MUST BE DEALT WITH UNIFORMLY. ON SECURITY IN THE US, HE ASKED THAT WE DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO PREVENT INCIDENTS, SINCE ANY SUCH EVENT COULD DAMAGE THE PRESENT VERY FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. BELOVSKI SAID THAT ONE OF THE YUGOSLAV CONSULS AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW YORK CONSULATE GENERAL HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONED THREAT THAT AFTERNOON THAT TWO USTASHI WOULD ATTACK HIM AT HOME THAT EVENING. THE AUGUST ISSUE OF AN ALBANIAN-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER HAD MENTIONED THIS MAN, OSMAN GASI, AS A YUGOSLAV SPY, AND ADVISED THAT HE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH "BY THE GUN OR THE BAT." WE SAID THAT WE WOULD NOTIFY THE SECURITY OFFICE AT ONCE AND SAID THAT SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD ALSO BE PASSED TO THE POLICE AND THE FBI IN NEW YORK.

4. YUGOSLAV UNGA PARTICIPATION. BELOVSKI SAID THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY VRHOVEC WOULD CERTAINLY BE COMING TO NEW YORK, PROBABLY FOR THE OPENING OF THE UNGA. HIS OWN PREFERENCE, HE SAID, WOULD BE TO HAVE VRHOVEC MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON INSTEAD OF NEW YORK, BECAUSE THE NEW YORK MEETINGS MUST BE TIGHTLY SCHEDULED AND TEND TO FOCUS PRIMARILY ON UN MATTERS. IF VRHOVEC CAME TO WASHINGTON TO SEE THE SECRETARY, THEY COULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND COULD DISCUSS A BROAD RANGE OF BILATERAL ISSUES. THIS IS IMPORTANT PARTICULARLY SINCE VRHOVEC HAS ONLY RECENTLY BECOME FOREIGN SECRETARY. WE REPLIED THAT WHILE THE SECRETARY IS CERTAIN TO BE VERY BUSY DURING THAT PERIOD, WE WOULD TAKE BELOVSKI'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. BELOVSKI NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT YET SOUGHT VRHOVEC'S VIEWS AND WAS SPEAKING STRICTLY UNOFFICIALLY.

5. PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24. LUERS RAISED THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24, ASKING THAT YUGOSLAVIA VOTE AGAINST RECOMMENDING THE

PUERTO RICO ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. BELOVSKI REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT REALISTIC. HE SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA "CANNOT GO AGAINST" THE MAJORITY ON THE COMMITTEE. IT CAN TRY TO INFLUENCE THE WAY THE ISSUE IS CONSIDERED, AND STRIVE FOR A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT IT WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY. YUGOSLAVIA HAD ABSTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS AND PROBABLY WOULD AGAIN. LUERS URGED THAT, IN VIEW OF OUR IMPROVED RELATIONS AND OF OUR STRONG VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT, YUGOSLAVIA CONSIDER SUPPORTING OUR POSITION. BELOVSKI SAID HE WOULD PRESENT OUR CASE, BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC.

6. LJUBICIC VISIT. LUERS MENTIONED THE VISIT BY DEFENSE SECRETARY LJUBICIC, PLANNED FOR LATE SEPTEMBER, AND NOTED THAT DEFENSE OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES HAD BEEN IN CONTACT TO WORK OUT SCHEDULING QUESTIONS. BELOVSKI SAID HE FELT THAT THE US SIDE SHOULD PROVIDE SPECIFIC PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS. WE INDICATED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS BUT THAT THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD NOT BEEN FIXED WITH SECRETARY BROWN'S OFFICE. (COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT FROM BELOVSKI'S REMARKS THAT HE HAS AGAIN NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED BY HIS DEFENSE SECRETARIAT ON THE PLANS FOR THIS VISIT. WE WILL THEREFORE PROVIDE HIM WITH THE DETAILED SCHEDULE, TOGETHER WITH SECRETARY BROWN'S FORMAL INVITATION, AS SOON AS THESE HAVE BEEN CLEARED THROUGH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. END COMMENT).

7. US-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP. LUERS ASKED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP, AND REITERATED OUR NEED FOR YUGOSLAV ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE IN ORDER THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, INCLUDING HIS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL ON SEPTEMBER 8, COULD GO FORWARD AS PLANNED. BELOVSKI SAID THAT IN A MEETING AT THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT THE SAME MORNING, HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT OUR EMBASSY HAD REPORTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT ACCEPT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE. WE EXPRESSED SURPRISE, SAYING THAT WE HAD SEEN NO SUCH REPORT BUT WERE CONCERNED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD NOT REPLIED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TERMS OF REFERENCE. BELOVSKI DOWNPLAYED THE IMPORTANCE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE, SAYING THAT HE AND WEIL SHOULD GET TOGETHER ANYWAY WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A FORMAL MEETING, AND THAT HE ASSUMED THE FIRST REGULAR

MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN YUGOSLAVIA IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER, AS EARLIER PLANNED. HE SAID THE YUGOSLAVS HAD SOME PROBLEMS FOCUSING ON THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE, BECAUSE THE FORMAT DIFFERED FROM THAT IN MIXED JOINT COMMISSIONS. WE NOTED THAT INDEED THE FORMAT DID DIFFER, AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH PREVIOUSLY.

WE ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE AGENDA ITEMS AND ABOUT WHO WOULD BE THE YUGOSLAV CO-CHAIRMAN. BELOVSKI SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE NAMED SOON. HE SAID HIS MEETING WITH WEIL COULD BE USED TO GO OVER THE AGENDA QUESTION.

8. DEFENSE WORKING GROUP. LUERS REFERRED TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR A DEFENSE WORKING GROUP AND HANDED BELOVSKI A NON-PAPER CONTAINING POINTS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY STATE AND DEFENSE. HE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER HAD PRESENTED THESE POINTS IN BELGRADE ABOUT TEN DAYS EARLIER AND THAT OUR PRESENTATION WAS INTENDED TO INFORM BELOVSKI OF WHAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD PROPOSED. BELOVSKI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE PROPOSAL AND WAS AWARE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION IN BELGRADE. HE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL.

9. DUAL NATIONALS. LUERS RAISED THE QUESTION OF DUAL NATIONALS, NOTING THAT THE PROBLEM OF INDUCTION OF YUGOSLAV-BORN AMERICANS SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE IN RECENT MONTHS. HE ASKED IF THERE WERE NOT WAYS OF PREVENTING SUCH UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCES. BELOVSKI SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY GOTTEN THE SECRETARIATS OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL YUGOSLAV MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, STATING THAT ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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VISA-ISSUING OFFICERS MUST INFORM YUGOSLAV-BORN APPLICANTS OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS. BELOVSKI SAYS THAT HE WILL SEE TO IT PERSONALLY THAT ALL YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS IN THIS COUNTRY SCRUPULOUSLY COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER. LUERS ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO INSERT A NOTICE IN THE PASSPORT WHEN THE VISA IS ISSUED. BELOVSKI SAID THAT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE BUT THAT HE CAN PERSONALLY GUARANTEE THAT THE VISA OFFICERS WOULD DO AS THEY ARE TOLD, AND HE PREFERRED TO USE THIS SYSTEM. "WE DON'T WANT THESE CASES," SAID BELOVSKI. IT DOES NOT HELP THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY AND IT DOES NOT HELP OUR RELATIONS. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR EITHER SIDE. LUERS AGREED AND SAID THAT WE HOPED THIS PROCEDURE WOULD WORK, BUT THAT IF IT DID NOT, AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER WAS PREPARED TO WRITE LETTERS TO THE SERBO-CROATIAN NEWSPAPERS IN THIS COUNTRY ADVISING THEM OF THE SITUATION. BELOVSKI SAID THAT HE DOUBTED IF SUCH A STEP WOULD BE EFFECTIVE, SINCE THE SERBO-CROATIAN NEWSPAPERS HAD RELATIVELY SMALL CIRCULATION AND

WERE READ MAINLY BY ANTI-YUGOSLAV EMIGRES, WHO HAD LESS INTEREST IN VISITING THE COUNTRY ANYWAY. BELOVSKI REITERATED FIRMLY HOWEVER THAT THE NEW YUGOSLAV ORDER WOULD BE CARRIED OUT SCRUPULOUSLY.

10. BELOVSKI SAID THAT HE WAS SENDING LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY FORMALLY NOTIFYING THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE CONSULATE IN CLEVELAND WOULD BE RAISED TO THE STATUS OF CONSULATE GENERAL.

11. BELOVSKI THEN ASKED ABOUT IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CERTAIN YUGOSLAV WORKERS IN BUFFALO. WE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS STRICTLY A MATTER OF IMMIGRATION LAW, AND THAT THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE BELIEVED THAT THE THREE WORKERS WERE PERFORMING TASKS WHICH WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR VISA STATUS. THIS WAS NOT A POLITICAL QUESTION AND IT WAS NOT UNIQUE TO THE YUGOSLAVS, BUT WAS A MATTER TO BE DETERMINED BY INS. BELOVSKI LISTENED, AND COMMENTED THAT IT SOUNDED QUITE LOGICAL. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE KEPT GETTING CABLES AND INQUIRIES TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BUFFALO CASE. HE PROMISED TO GET BRIEFED MORE FULLY ON THE ISSUES.

12. BELOVSKI THEN TURNED TO THE VISIT BY A MAJOR YUGOSLAV TRADE DELEGATION SCHEDULED FOR LATE SEPTEMBER. IT WOULD INCLUDE 33 MAJOR MANAGERS OF INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES AND WOULD BE LED BY VAKIC, WHO IS THE EQUIVALENT OF A CABINET MINISTER. BELOVSKI SAID HE WOULD ASK THAT THE GROUP COMING TO WASHINGTON BE SOMEWHAT SMALLER, AND SAID THAT THEY EXPECTED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KREPS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HER. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD NEVER YET MET WITH ANY YUGOSLAV DELEGATION FOR LUNCH OR DINNER, AND REITERATED THAT THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT GROUP. FOLLOWING THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON, HE WOULD ADVISE THE BUSINESSMEN TO DIVIDE UP IN SMALLER GROUPS TO VISIT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THEIR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. BELOVSKI SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE ONE OF FIVE DELEGATIONS ARRIVING IN THE SAME WEEK IN LATE SEPTEMBER, AND THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE EMBASSY WERE SIMPLY NOT ADEQUATE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ALL OF THESE VISITORS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURE HOW THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED. VANCE

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